

# MD DNR Tidal Black Bass Questionnaire - Results

During the summer of 2014 MD DNR Fisheries Service surveyed anglers using an on-line poll to better understand attitudes and opinions regarding tidal water bass fishing regulations. This poll was conducted in response to numerous reports of extended periods of poor fishing during the 2013 and 2014 seasons in our most popular tidal bass fishery, the Potomac River. The high number of respondents shows how popular bass fishing is in Maryland tidewater. Thank you to all anglers that took the time to answer the questions and share their opinions. We are now sharing the results with all bass anglers.

Approximately 51% of anglers who responded are willing to have increased regulation of their fishery. We believe this result is largely due to dissatisfaction with recent fishing success and an underlying assumption that additional regulations will result in better fishing for all anglers. While our fall population surveys (2010 – 2013) have suggested decreases in bass abundance, analyses by MD DNR biologists have not indicated a clear link with angling effort. In an effort to provide a high quality fishery for as many anglers as possible, we will look at the potential benefits of additional regulatory options as well as the impact on the 49% of anglers who did not favor more restrictive regulations. Later this fall, with new population data in hand, we will discuss the choices to be considered for 2015 with our management partners for the Potomac River, including the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fish, the D.C. District of the Environment, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. If a regulation change is proposed, then we will also open that discussion to you, the tidal water bass anglers, as part of a public scoping process.

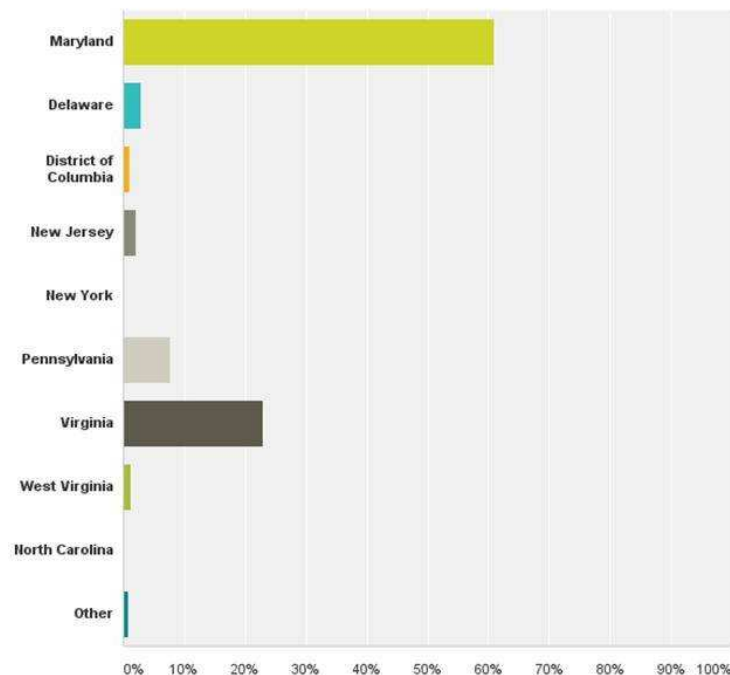


Results were provided by Tidal Bass Program in October 2014. For more information, contact Dr. Joseph W. Love, 410-260-8257, [joseph.love@maryland.gov](mailto:joseph.love@maryland.gov), or 580 Taylor Avenue, B-2, Annapolis, MD 21401



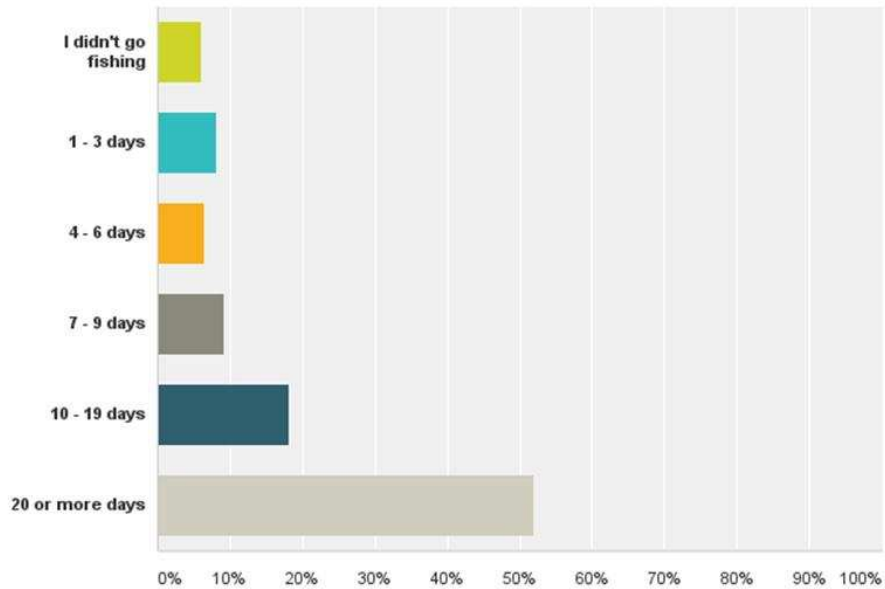
## Q1 What is your State of residence?

Answered: 671 Skipped: 21



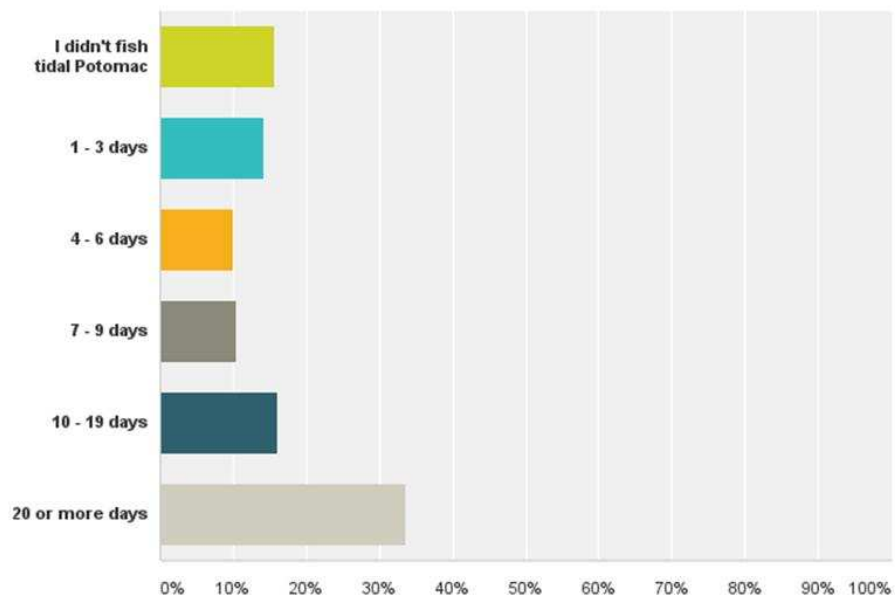
**Q2 Roughly, how many days did you go bass fishing in tidal water in 2013?**

Answered: 691 Skipped: 1

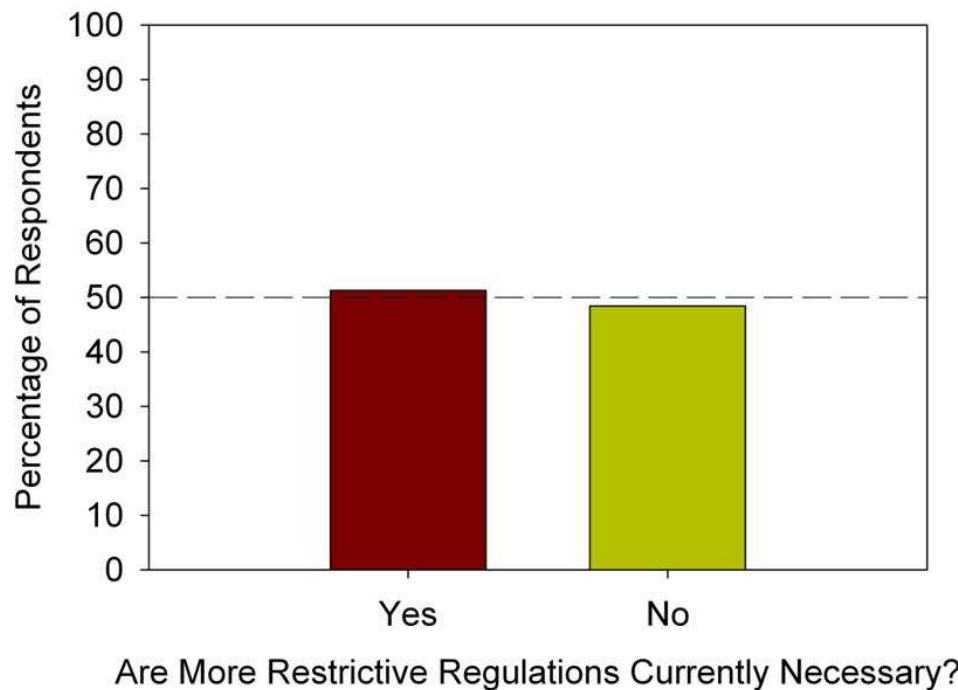


**Q3 How many days did you fish the tidal Potomac for bass?**

Answered: 647 Skipped: 45



## Summarized Data from Questions 4 – 10 in Survey

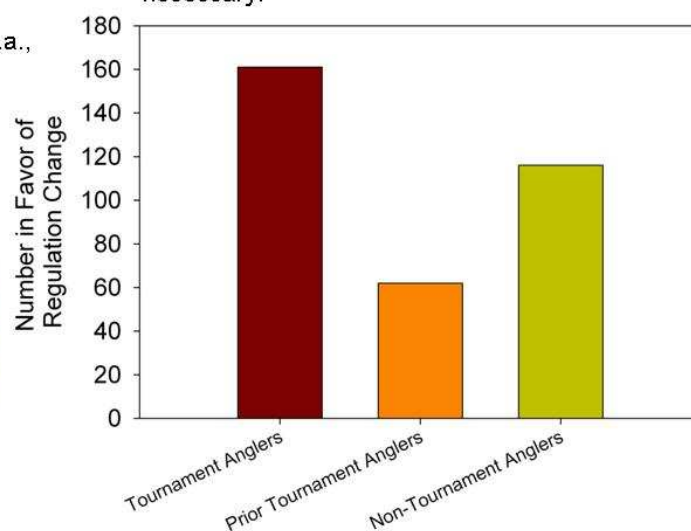


## Summarized Data from Questions 4 – 10 in Survey

Approximately 59% of respondents currently fish black bass tournaments, and the rest were grouped into non-tournament anglers and those who fished tournaments a long time ago (a.k.a., "prior tournament angler").

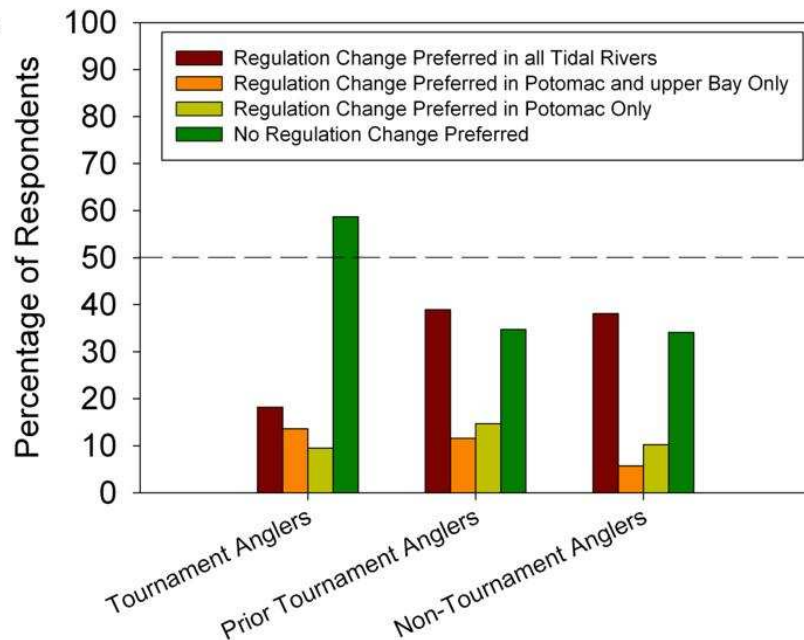


A large number of tournament and non-tournament angler respondents thought some type of regulation change is necessary.



## Summarized Data from Questions 4 – 10 in Survey

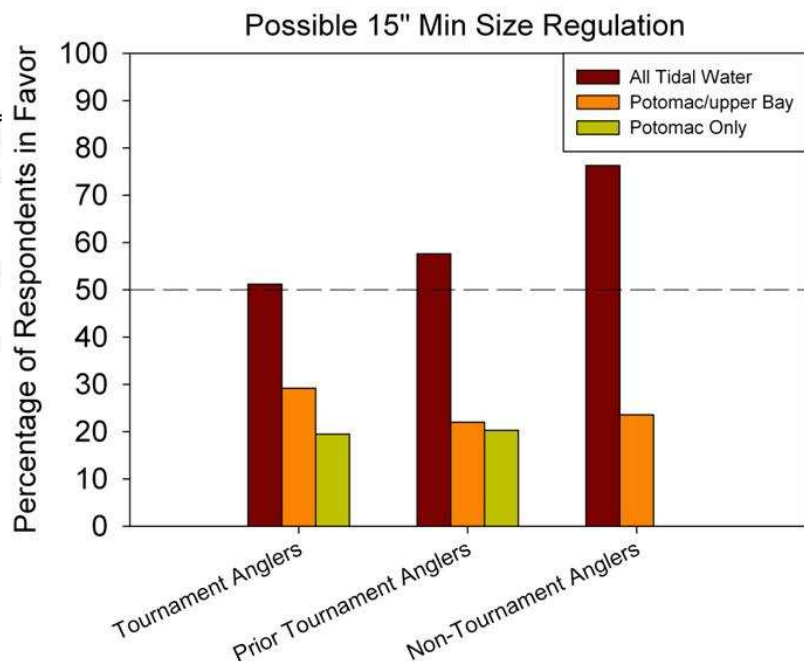
Of those who want a regulation change, prior tournament anglers and non-tournament angler respondents had a preference for extending a regulation to all tidal rivers



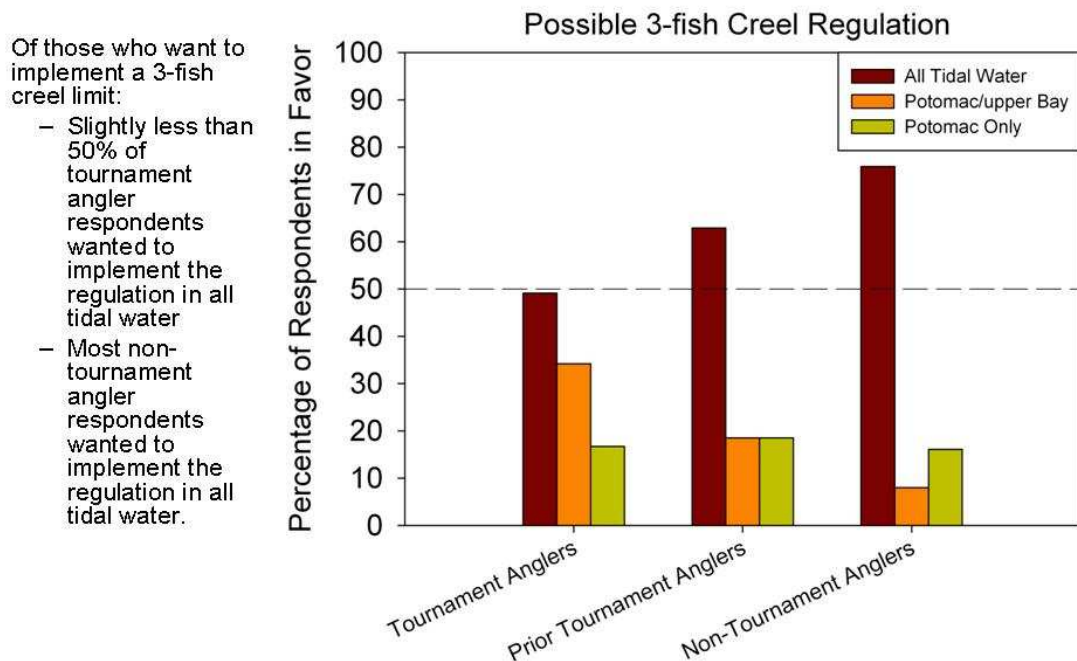
## Summarized Data from Questions 4 – 10 in Survey

Of those who want to implement a 15" minimum size limit:

- A slight majority of tournament angler respondents were in favor of implementing it in all tidal waters
- A clear majority of non-tournament angler respondents were in favor of implementing it in all tidal water



## Summarized Data from Questions 4 – 10 in Survey



## Summarized Data from Questions 4 – 10 in Survey

